

In item 2 on pages 2-3 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 1-8 have been rejected as being anticipated by Hiramatsu (US Pat. No. 5,180,901) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

As will be explained below, it is believed that the claims were patentable over the cited art in their original form and the claims have, therefore, not been amended to overcome the references.

The invention of the instant application relates to a chip card module (4) for installing a biometric sensor (10) in a chip card (1). In the chip card module (4), the sensor chip (10) is attached on a plate or foil-shaped support (5). The support (5) has electrically conductive regions (8) which are connected with the sensor chip (10), on one hand, and with the electrical connections (14) of the chip card (1), on the other hand.

It is known to integrate sensor chips, which record characteristic features of persons, into chip cards, as can be seen from Figs. 1 and 2 and the corresponding description of Hiramatsu. As can be especially seen from Fig. 1 of Hiramatsu, the sensor chips 1 and 3 are directly integrated into the mass of the chip card body. This kind of chip card does not have a chip card module.

Claim 1 of the instant application recites, however, specifically such a chip card module for biometric sensors, which can be mounted in the chip cards. This kind of chip card module has the advantage that the electronic function of the sensor chip and the chip card module can be tested before the installation in the chip card.

Furthermore, the chip card module with its specific technical characteristics for installation in a chip card minimizes the risk of breakage, increases security, and eases the production process.

Clearly, Hiramatsu does not show a chip card module for installing sensor chips in chip cards as recited in claims 1 and 5 of the instant application.

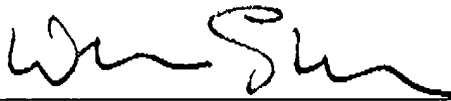
Claims 1 and 5 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over Hiramatsu and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claims 1 or 5, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-18 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



For Applicants

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